National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Cutting household ventilation to improve energy efficiency

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Abstract:

A warning about radon and lung cancer. If global emissions of greenhouse gases continue on their present trajectory, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that the world may be more than 4°C warmer in 2100 than in 1861-80. To hold warming to less than 2°C on average, the level often cited as the threshold of dangerous climate change, emissions must be reduced radically. For example, the World Bank estimated that global emissions would need to be halved by 2050, and continue falling thereafter, to reach this goal. The prospect is daunting, but there are many opportunities for intervention. Housing is a good example, as Milner and colleagues point out in the linked paper. The sector typically contributes about a quarter of national greenhouse emissions, energy efficiency is often low, and measures such as insulation can improve building performance quickly. We also know that well designed interventions to make homes warmer and safer can reduce energy use and improve health.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Intervention: ☑

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☑

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified